

**From:** Marc Turkel  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
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Perhaps, as a Microsoft Employee, my input wouldn't be considered objective. However, as someone who lived and breathed the Mac OS platform for 10 years before becoming a Microsoft full time employee 5.5 years ago, I can tell you this company lives to improve the lives of consumers in every way, every day.

Respectfully stated, the DOJ anti-trust suit seems out of step with most of the American public or, more germane to the case, what consumers perceive about the value Microsoft delivers in today's marketplace. In my travels, talking to relatives and friends, many of whom are still running the Mac OS, there is the overwhelming sense that this lawsuit doesn't represent the best interests of consumers but rather, represents the special interests of smaller less successful companies. This then, would be an anti-trust case motivated by commercial interests; the DOJ is being leveraged as a competitive tool by those seeking an advantage in the marketplace. This is a cynical message for the public and the world from the architects of a free market economy.

Since we have a dominant operating system or platform, every electronic interaction consumers receive is compatible with the system you're running, Linux, Mac or Windows. The incentive for software developers to write interoperability in to their applications is not altruistic but economic. If there were no central operating system, we would live in a world of fragmented communication; indeed the very foundation of today's electronic infrastructure would be truncated and shriveled by comparison. In such a scenario, the ability for the average consumer to own, operate and enjoy a computer, would be practically non existent. Computers would still be niche item, enjoyed by a few, the value to society and unfulfilled promise.

The vision Bill Gates had was, "A computer on every desk and in every home". Although this vision is no longer operative at Microsoft, it is plausible that as a society we've arrived as close to this reality as is possible. Due to an economy of scale, prices of hardware and software have dropped while the power and functionality of these products has increased substantially.

Is Microsoft perfect? No. The best I could hope for is a pragmatic and systematic review of the value delivered by Microsoft to the public and the contribution Microsoft has made (directly and indirectly) to the experience of computing overall. Then, as duly elected officials, make decisions in the best interests of consumers and the American public. Reject the sour grapes of competitors who would gladly trade places with Microsoft if they could.

Sincerely Yours,

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